

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objects to Figs. 1, 4a, 5, 7a, 8, 10a, 11a, 11b, and 11c, for their alleged failure to provide descriptive labels and identification. Applicant submits that under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.84(o) and (n), English descriptive phrases are not generally required as labels. Short descriptive identifiers, e.g., “Ve1,” “Ve2,” and “Ve3” for vectors, are generally accepted as descriptive labels.

Because the drawings cited by the Examiner are complex diagrams with many labeled parts and angles, Applicant further submits that these diagrams are most easily understood when labeled as they are currently labeled, with very short descriptive labels rather than longer descriptive phrases. Applicant notes that drawings not of this character have been labeled in more detail; for example, Figs. 2, 3, 6, and 9 have been labeled with phrases such as “input device,” “storage device,” etc. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objections to the drawings.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-8 and 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant hereby amends claim 1 to require “storing said rotation angle,” in order to clarify the concrete and tangible result of the method as claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-8 and 10-15.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 6-10, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0161535 to Kawakita et al. (“Kawakita”).

A. Claims 1, 6-8, 10, 14, and 15

Claim 1 recites “setting vectors at the nodes of the wire harness in the second shape as node vectors respectively.” Regarding this element of claim 1, the Examiner cites Figs. 10 and 15 of Kawakita. Although Figs. 10 and 15 of Kawakita appear to show a number of nodes along the wire harness, they fail to show the use of “node vectors” in relation to the nodes of the wire harness, as required by claim 1.

Claim 1 further requires “calculating angles, each of which has a rotation direction, wherein each of the angles is defined between the node vectors at the adjoining nodes.” Regarding “calculating angles,” the Examiner cites ¶ [0134] of Kawakita. Although this portion of Kawakita appears to show calculation of a “curvature radius R of center line 8 of wire bundle 1,” it fails to show “calculating angles.” Furthermore, the calculation of the curvature radius described in ¶ [0134], is based upon the opening and closing angles of door 3, whereas claim 1 requires “calculating angles . . . wherein each of the angles is defined between the node vectors at the adjoining nodes.” Thus, not only does Kawakita lack any teaching of “calculating angles,” it also lacks any teaching of “node vectors” on which those angle calculations must be based, according to claim 1.

Moreover, since Kawakita fails to describe calculating angles, as required by claim 1, Kawakita also fails to teach that said angles have “a rotation direction.” For example, ¶ [0175] of Kawakita, cited by the Examiner, merely appears to show calculation of a curvature radius, as described above, and fails to show “calculating angles, each of which has a rotation direction.”

Finally, claim 1 requires “adding the angles to each other so as to calculate a rotation angle having a rotation direction at the measuring point.” Neither ¶ [0134] nor ¶ [0175] of Kawakita appear to show the addition of any angles to each other. Furthermore, the figures cited by the Examiner, namely Figs. 5, 9, 10, 15, and 23, fail to show the addition of angles required by claim 1.

Thus, for at least the above reasons, Kawakita fails to anticipate claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2, 6-8, 10, 14, and 15.

Regarding claim 2, Applicant notes the Examiner’s assertion that Kawakita teaches vectors at the nodes of the wire harness. (Office Action at 7, citing Kawakita at Figs. 4 and 15.) However, these figures merely appear to show connected nodes of a model and do not appear to show any vector representation associated with said nodes. The mere fact that these nodes are displayed in the figures as connected does not necessarily imply any “node vector” representation, as such connecting lines may be rendered in any manner of ways.

With respect to claim 7, the Examiner asserts that the distance between the adjoining nodes in Kawakita is set such that “the distance R is smaller than $\pi d/2$.” The Examiner cites Fig. 7 and ¶ [0026] of Kawakita with respect to this element of claim 7. Although Fig. 7 appears

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to show an amount (D1-D2)/2, neither Fig. 7 nor ¶ [0026] appear to describe the amount $\pi \cdot d/2$, or describe that the distance between the adjoining nodes should be smaller than this amount.

B. Claim 9

Regarding independent claim 9, Applicant submits that since claim 9 recites features analogous to those of claim 1, claim 9 is not anticipated by Kawakita at least for reasons analogous to those presented above regarding claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

IV. Conclusion

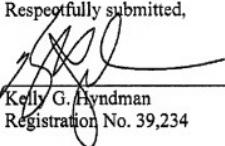
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Applicant herewith petitions the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Unless a check is attached, any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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